For Immediate Release July 3, 2013 Contact: Alex Vassar 916-322-3116 or 916-904-2739 (mobile)

## Runner to Hold Two More Fire Fee Telephone Townhalls

SACRAMENTO – George Runner will hold two telephone townhalls in July regarding the confusing and controversial Fire Prevention Fee.

The first townhall, on **Monday, July 15 at 6 p.m.**, will be for residents of Butte, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Siskiyou, Shasta and Tehama counties.

A week later, on **Tuesday July 23 at 6 p.m.**, a second event will be held for residents of Placer, Sierra, Nevada and Yuba counties.

"Many of my constituents have expressed concern about the fairness and cost of this new tax," Runner said. "As their elected taxpayer advocate, it's important for me to hear their concerns and keep them apprised of the latest developments."

The two upcoming townhalls are co-sponsored by State Senators Ted Gaines and Jim Nielsen and Assemblymembers Brian Dahle and Dan Logue. They are part of a series of regional townhalls Senator Runner is holding for taxpayers throughout his district.

During the call, Runner and other participating elected officials will discuss the latest fire "fee" news, including the lawsuit and pending legislation and answer questions from callers.

Members of the public who would like to participate should register at least 24 hours in advance at boe.ca.gov/townhall or by calling one of the phone numbers listed below:

## **July 15th Event**

Butte, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Siskiyou, Shasta, and Tehama counties. Register at online at boe.ca.gov/townhall or by calling (916) 445-3032.

## July 23rd Event

Placer, Sierra, Nevada, and Yuba counties.

Register at online at boe.ca.gov/townhall or by calling (916) 324-4970.

Taxpayers who pre-register will receive a telephone call at the start of the event inviting them to connect to the townhall.

Nearly 800,000 California property owners—about half of whom Runner represents—must pay the annual Fire Prevention Fee. The "fee" was enacted by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown in 2011.

Elected in November 2010, George Runner represents more than nine million Californians as a member of the State Board of Equalization. Runner keeps taxpayers informed of the latest fire tax news and information at <u>calfirefee.com</u>.

Editor's Note: Follow this link for an MP3 audio file for a 30-second Public Service Announcement (PSA) by George Runner.

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